



MARVEL

AR

**HICKMAN
BIANCHI
DALL'ALPI**

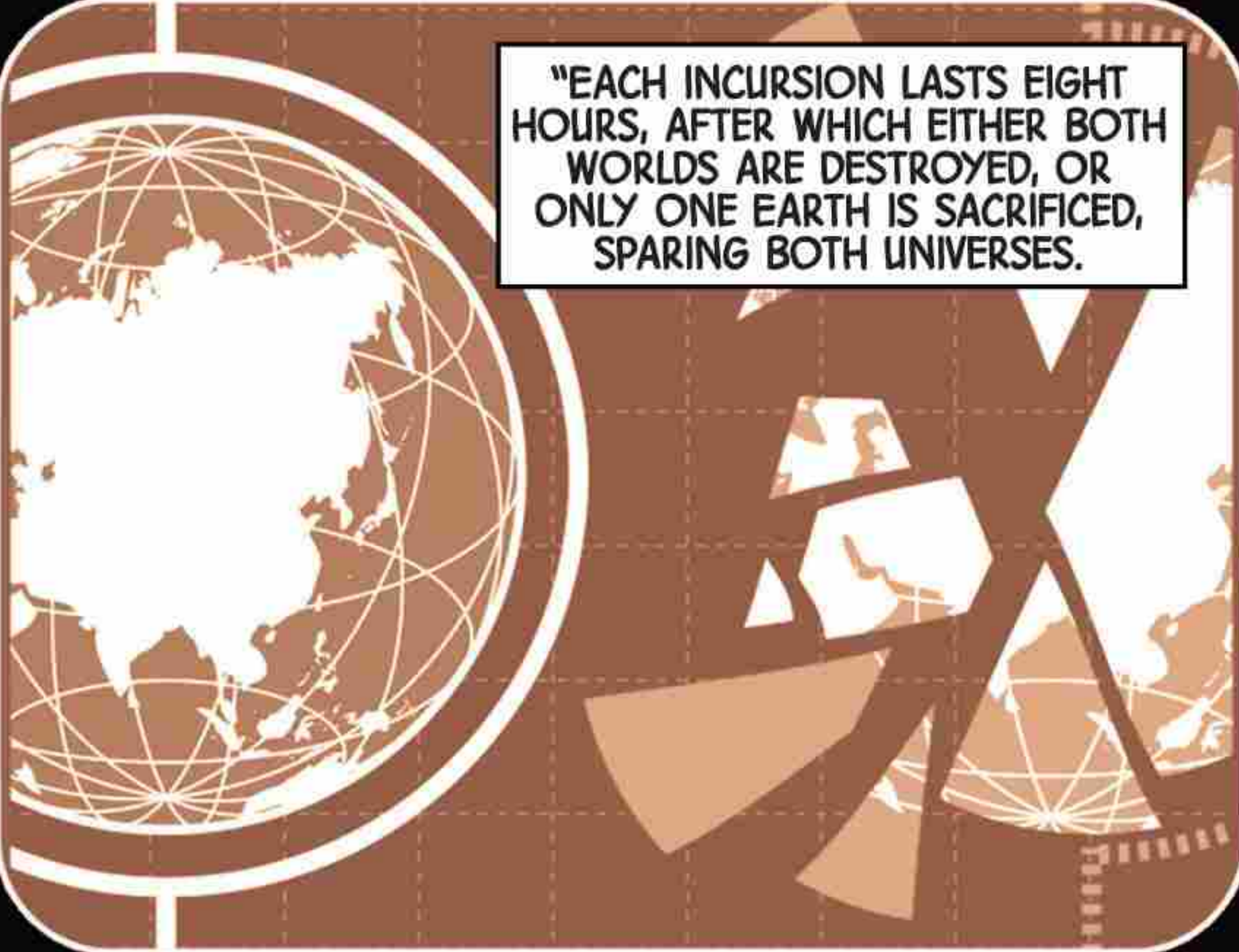
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PREVIOUSLY IN NEW AVENGERS

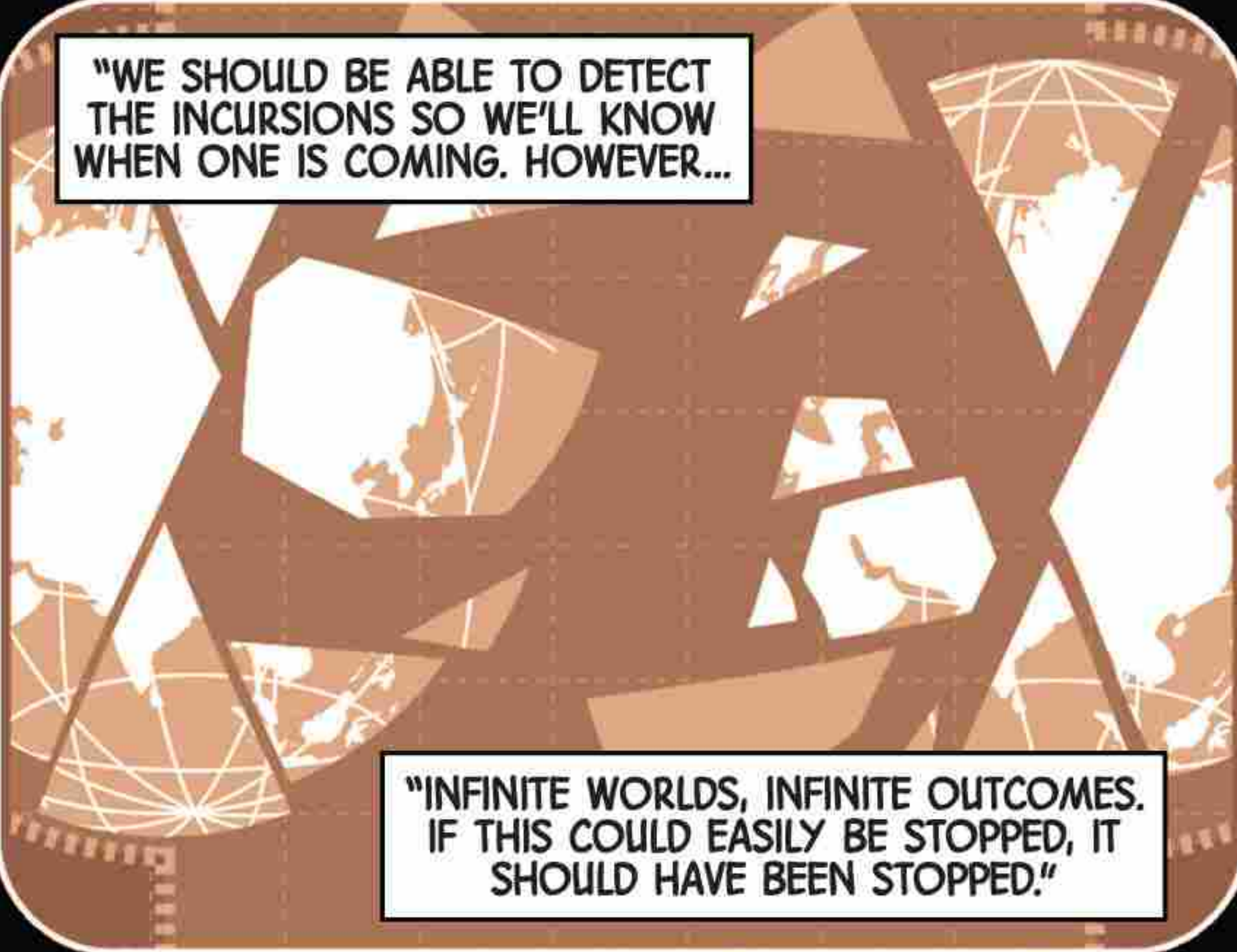


EVERYTHING DIES. YOU. ME. EVERYONE ON THIS PLANET. IT'S INEVITABLE, AND I HAVE COME TO ACCEPT IT. WHAT I FIND **UNACCEPTABLE** IS THE UNNATURAL ACCELERATION OF THAT END.

ON AN ALTERNATE EARTH AN EVENT OCCURRED THAT CAUSED THE EARLY DEATH OF A UNIVERSE. THIS CAUSED A TINY CONTRACTION, SMASHING TWO UNIVERSES TOGETHER AT THE INCURSION POINT OF THE INITIAL EVENT.



"EACH INCURSION LASTS EIGHT HOURS, AFTER WHICH EITHER BOTH WORLDS ARE DESTROYED, OR ONLY ONE EARTH IS SACRIFICED, SPARING BOTH UNIVERSES.

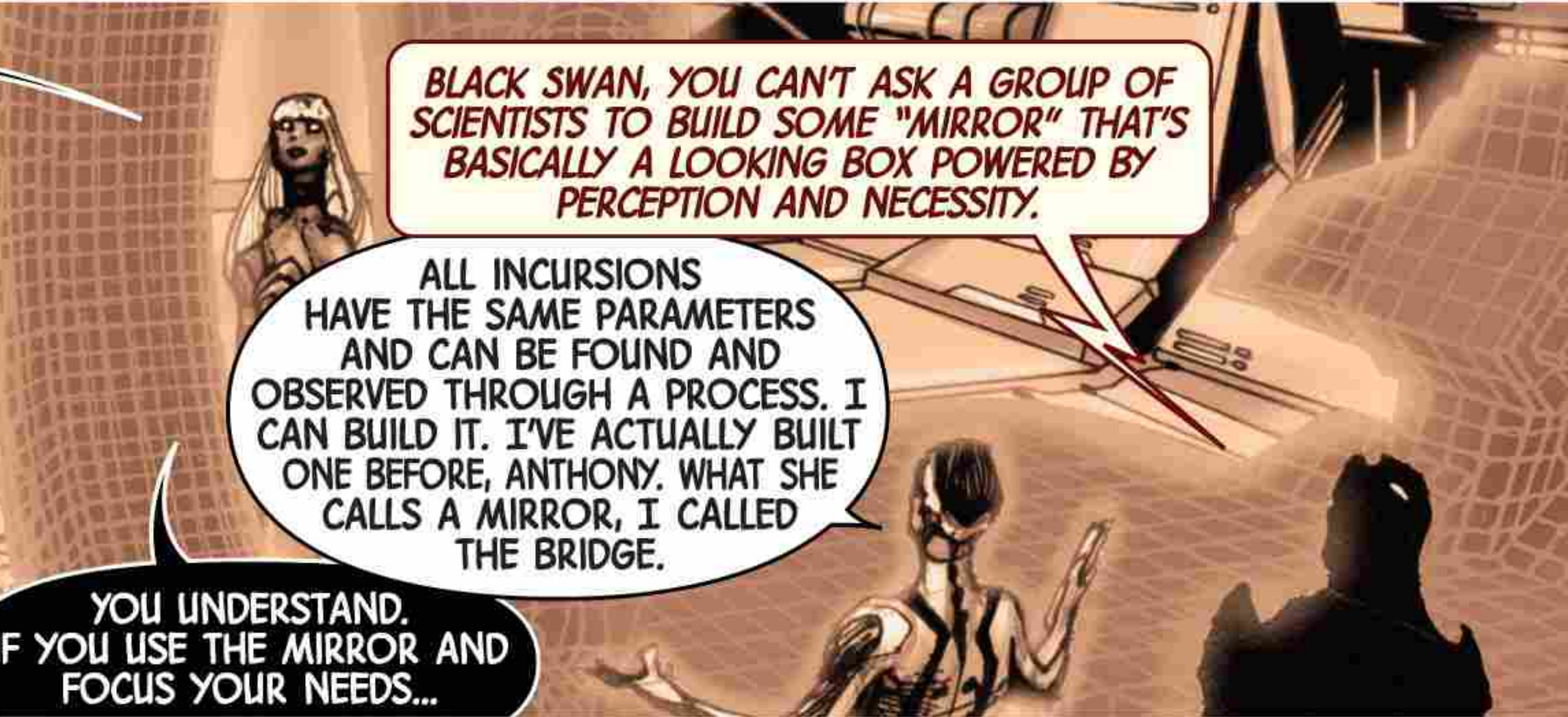


"WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO DETECT THE INCURSIONS SO WE'LL KNOW WHEN ONE IS COMING. HOWEVER...

"INFINITE WORLDS, INFINITE OUTCOMES. IF THIS COULD EASILY BE STOPPED, IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN STOPPED."



YOU WILL NEED THE MIRROR FOR ANY NUMBER OF INEVITABLE ADVERSARIES, BUT YOU SHOULD PRIMARILY CONCERN YOURSELVES WITH THE BLACK PRIESTS.



BLACK SWAN, YOU CAN'T ASK A GROUP OF SCIENTISTS TO BUILD SOME "MIRROR" THAT'S BASICALLY A LOOKING BOX POWERED BY PERCEPTION AND NECESSITY.

ALL INCURSIONS HAVE THE SAME PARAMETERS AND CAN BE FOUND AND OBSERVED THROUGH A PROCESS. I CAN BUILD IT. I'VE ACTUALLY BUILT ONE BEFORE, ANTHONY. WHAT SHE CALLS A MIRROR, I CALLED THE BRIDGE.

YOU UNDERSTAND. IF YOU USE THE MIRROR AND FOCUS YOUR NEEDS...



"...YOU CAN OBSERVE OTHER INCURSIONS AS THEY ARE OCCURRING."



I AM TIRED OF WATCHING OTHERS MAKE CHOICES OF CONSEQUENCE WHILE I DO NOTHING. IF I AM TO BE DAMNED BY THESE DECISIONS, LET IT BE BY USING ALL THE RESOURCES AT THE DISPOSAL OF A SORCERER SUPREME.

I AM NOT A PAWN. I AM THE DOCTOR.

THE ILLUMINATI



BLACK BOLT
Celestial Messiah



NAMOR
Imperius Rex



REED RICHARDS
Universal Builder



IRON MAN
Master of Machines



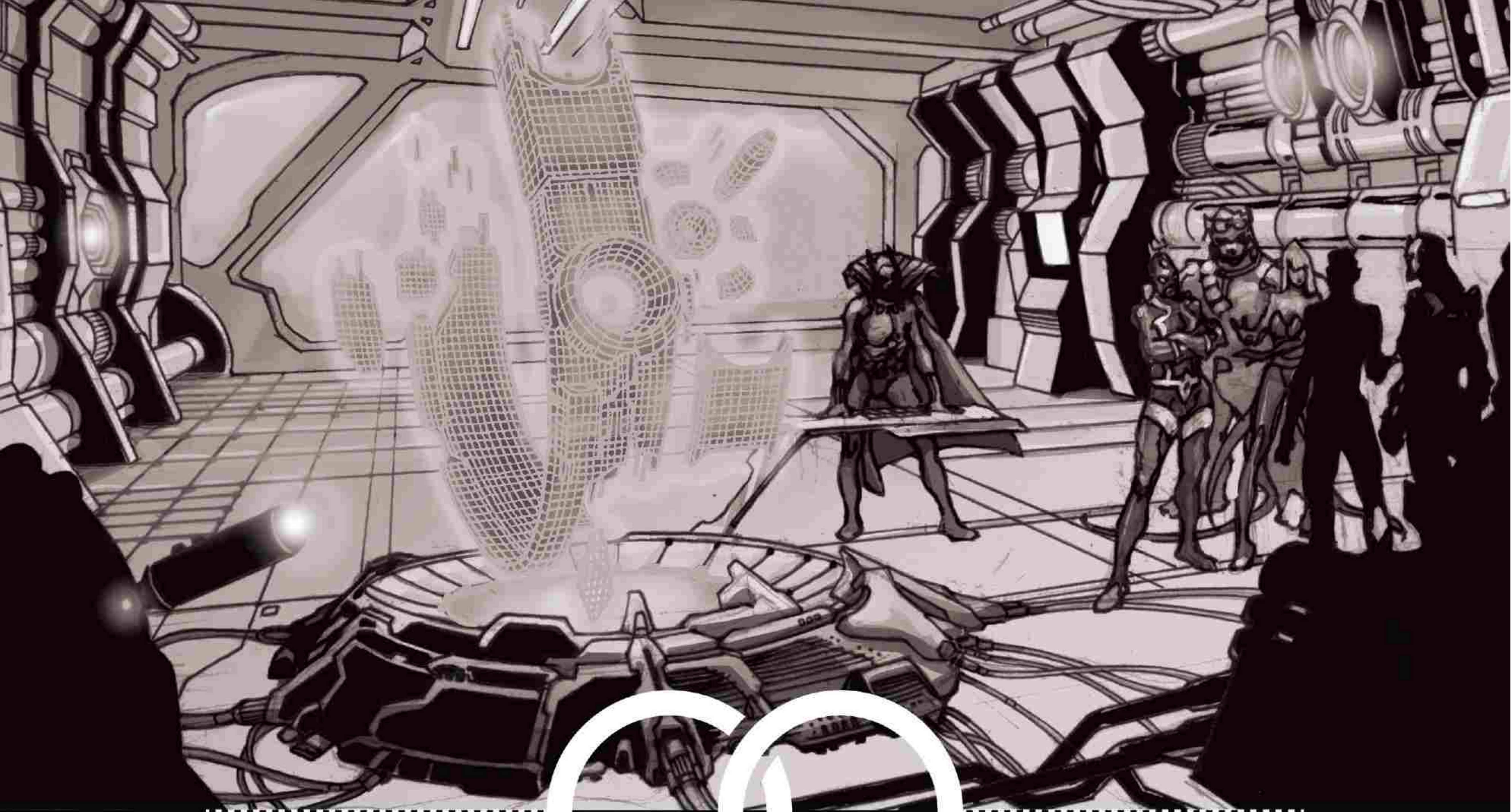
BEAST
Mutant Genius



DOCTOR STRANGE
Sorcerer Supreme



BLACK PANTHER
King of the Dead



“THE AGAMOTTO GAMBIT”

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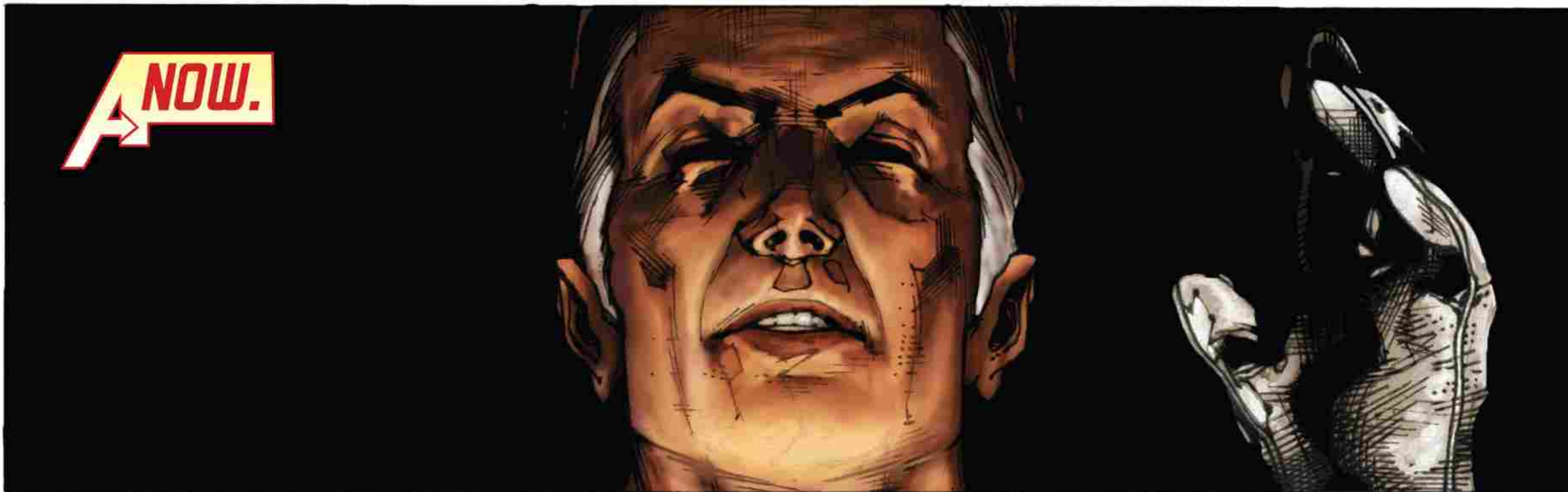
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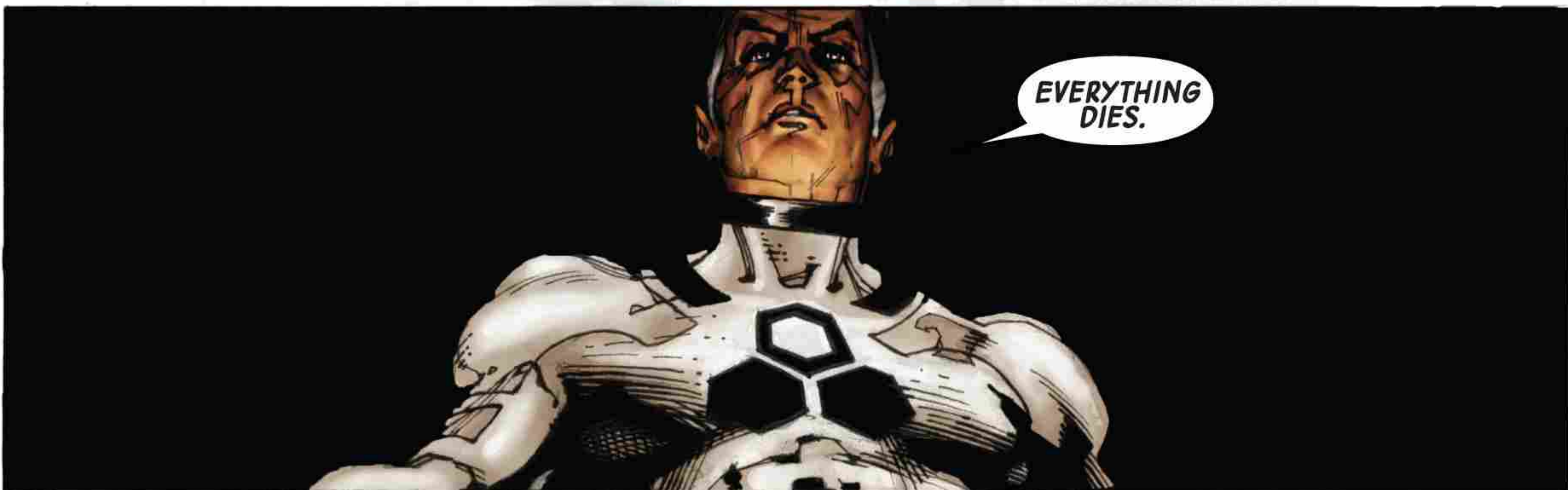
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A NOW.



EVERYTHING
DIES.



YOU. ME.
EVERYONE ON
THIS PLANET.

OUR SUN,
OUR GALAXY
AND, EVENTUALLY,
THE UNIVERSE
ITSELF.

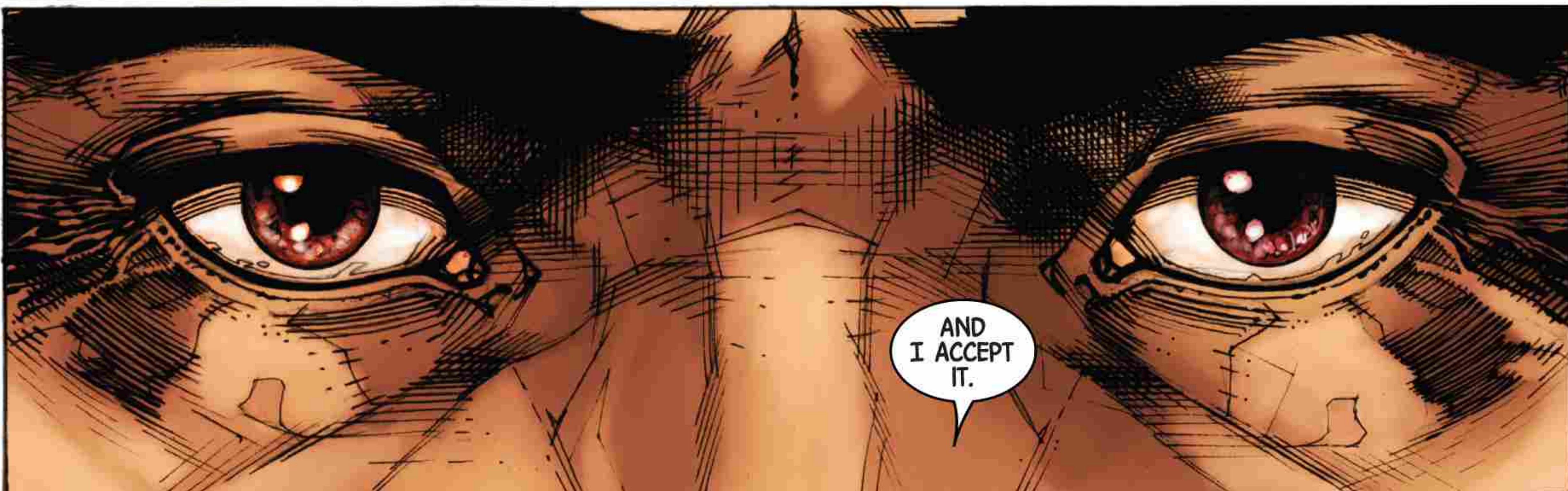
THIS IS
SIMPLY HOW
THINGS ARE.



IT'S
INEVITABLE.



AND
I ACCEPT
IT.





YELLOWJACKET

CAPTAIN BRITAIN
(BETSY BRADDOCK)

CAPTAIN BRITAIN
(BRIAN BRADDOCK)

IRON MAN

BLACK
PANTHER

WHAT I WILL
NOT TOLERATE--
WHAT I FIND
UNACCEPTABLE--IS
THE UNNATURAL
ACCELERATION OF
THAT END.

WHICH IS
WHY WE WERE
SUMMONED
HERE...

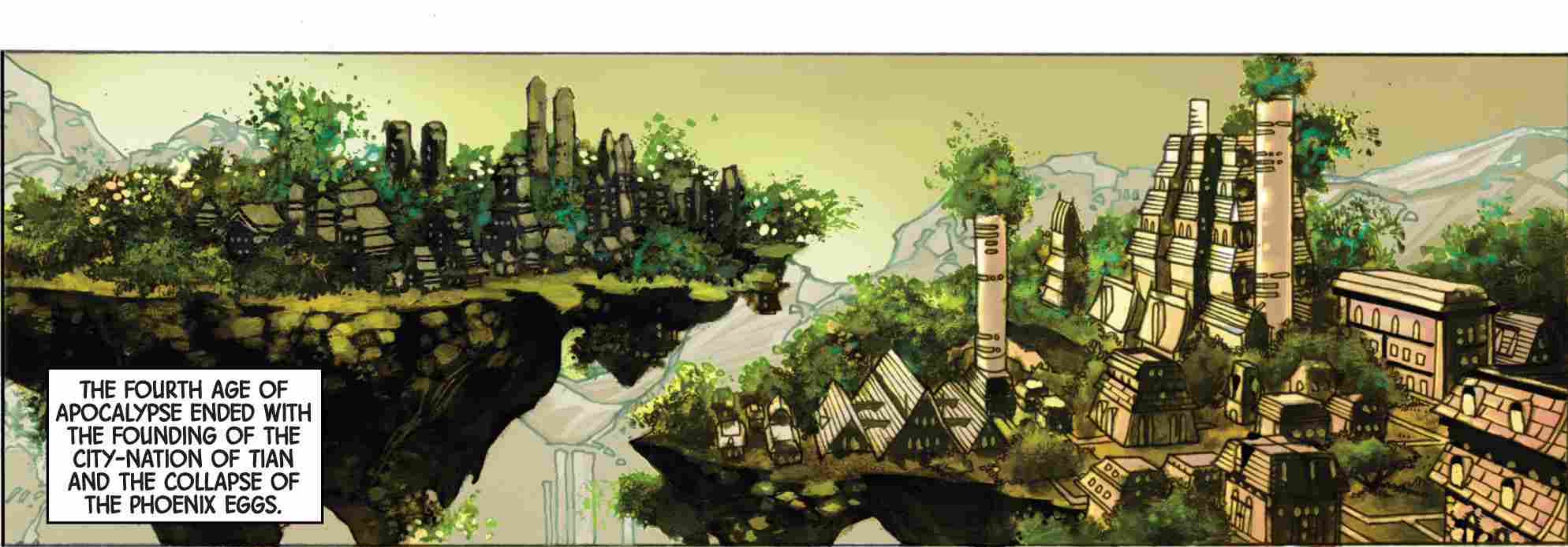
DR. DOOM

EMMA
FROST



AS THE
UNTIMELY END
OF EVERYTHING
IS WHAT WE
NOW FACE.

EARTH-2319.
[UNDER OBSERVATION.]



THE FOURTH AGE OF APOCALYPSE ENDED WITH THE FOUNDING OF THE CITY-NATION OF TIAN AND THE COLLAPSE OF THE PHOENIX EGGS.



MAGNETO, SAVIOR OF ALL MUTANTS, HAD GATHERED THE SURVIVORS OF THE WORLD'S SECOND HOLOCAUST AND BROUGHT THEM TO HIS NEW KINGDOM.



A PLACE CALLED HEAVEN, WHERE ALL HIS ANGELS WOULD BE SAFE...



SAFE FROM ALL THE DEVILS THAT STILL HUNTED THEM.



IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN A BETTER WORLD.



INSTEAD, IT WAS
SOON TO BE NO
WORLD AT ALL.

THE
INCURSION
POINT SHOULD BE
SOMEWHERE IN
TIAN'S TWIN
CITIES...

WE HAVE A
FULL CLOCK, BUT
IT'S POSSIBLE THE
MUTANTS WILL
COMPLICATE
THINGS.



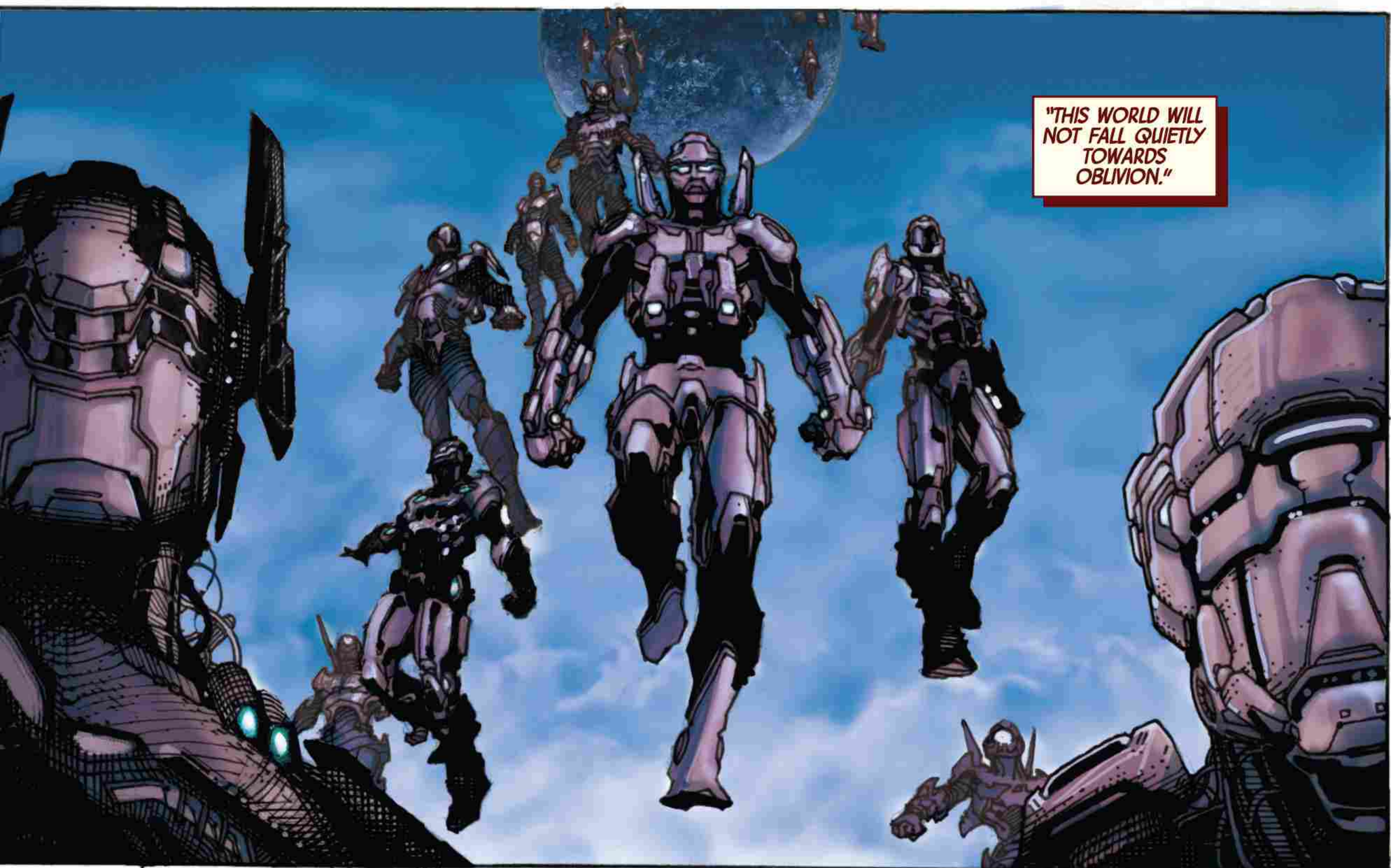
POSSIBLE?
ASSURED IS MORE
LIKELY. AFTER ALL,
HOW MANY OF US
STOOD BY AND DID
NOTHING--NOT EVEN
OFFERING A HELPING
HAND?

FITTING
THAT THEY MIGHT
HOLD THE KEY TO
OUR SALVATION
IN THEIRS...



THE
INCURSION
WALL IS
HERE.



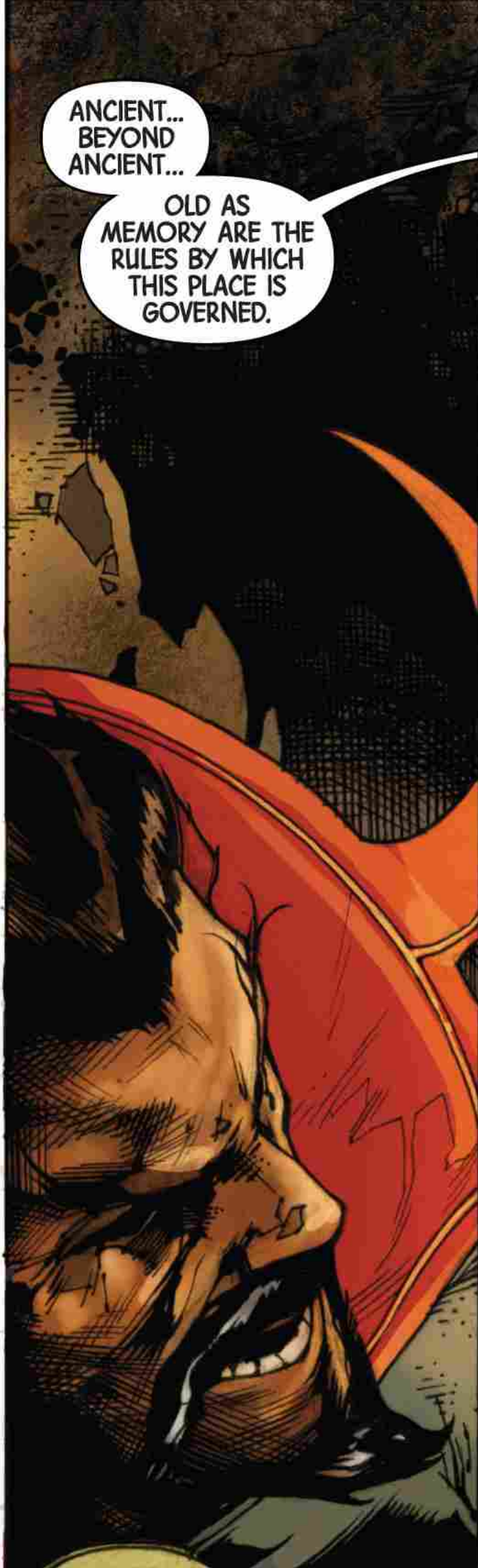


THE LOST LANDS.



ANCIENT...
BEYOND
ANCIENT...

OLD AS
MEMORY ARE THE
RULES BY WHICH
THIS PLACE IS
GOVERNED.



HERE, THERE
ARE NO SECRET
DEALS OR HIDDEN
ARRANGEMENTS TO BE
HAD--THERE IS ONLY
THE TRANSACTION
AND NOTHING
ELSE.

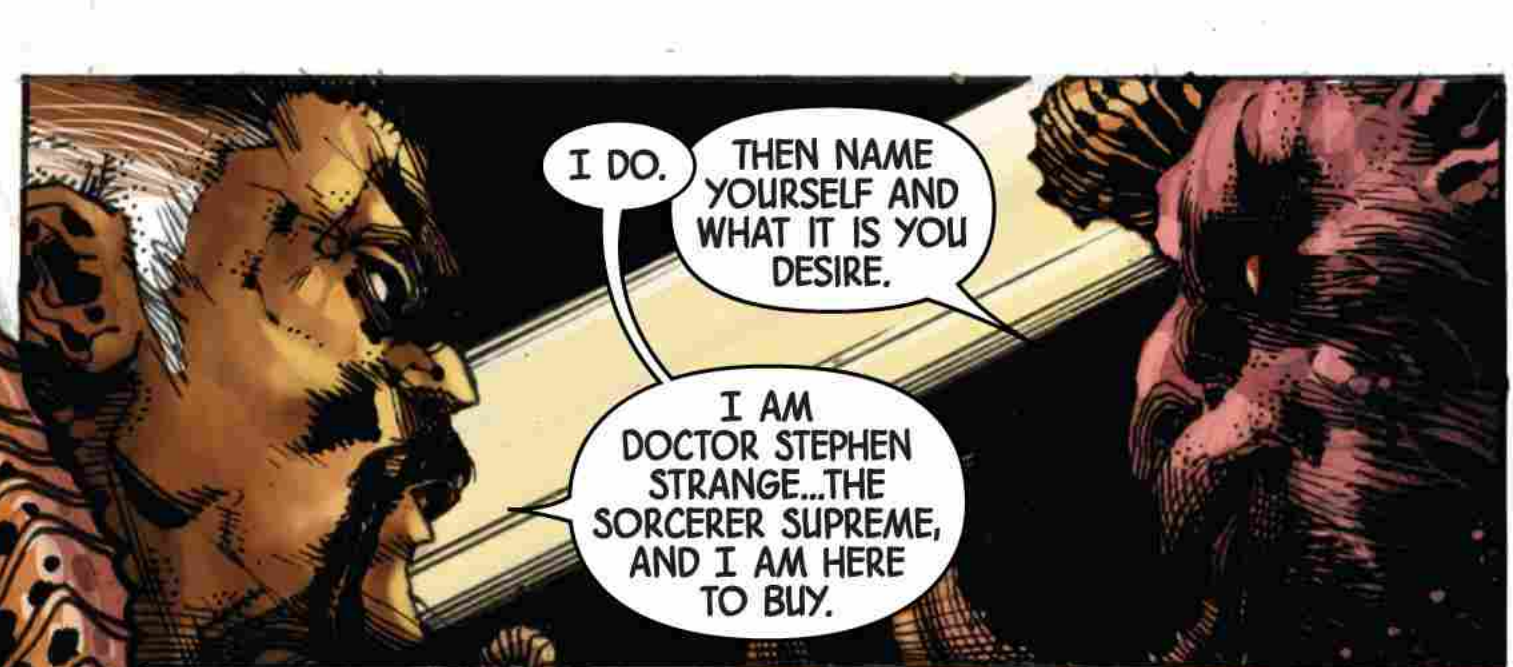


YOU
UNDERSTAND
OUR CURRENCY,
DON'T YOU?

I DO.

THEN NAME
YOURSELF AND
WHAT IT IS YOU
DESIRE.

I AM
DOCTOR STEPHEN
STRANGE...THE
SORCERER SUPREME,
AND I AM HERE
TO BUY.



HOW
WONDERFUL.



WELL THEN,
MORTAL...



WELCOME.



WELCOME
TO THE SINNER'S
MARKET.





AS YOU CAN SEE...WE DO A GREAT DEAL OF BUSINESS.

THERE ARE QUITE A FEW DEALERS OF THE LIGHTER FARE, BUT AS OUR NAME SUGGESTS, THE MARKET HAS A TENDENCY TO SKEW DARK... NECROMANCY, DEMIONICS, ETC., ETC.

THAT IT WERE SO SIMPLE. OVER TIME, I HAVE LEARNED THAT THERE IS NO DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE BLACK AND WHITE ARTS.

THERE IS ONLY THE PRICE... WHICH IS ALWAYS STEEP.



YES. ABOUT THAT. A SMALL PIECE OF ADVICE BEFORE WE BEGIN...

THE MARKET TENDS TO ADAPT TO THE BUYER--THE LONGER YOU STAY, THE MORE THINGS WILL CATCH YOUR EYE. SO SPECIFICITY WILL SERVE YOU WELL.

I IMPORE YOU, DOCTOR...GUARD YOUR HEART AGAINST WANTS AND FOCUS ON WHAT YOU TRULY NEED.

DO YOU THINK SOMEONE FINDS THEMSELVES IN THIS PLACE WITHOUT THEM BEING THE SAME?

FUHL-MAHGAHL. THE MIND WANDERS... WHO CAN SAY?

SHALL WE?

YES.

VERY WELL...





WHAT IS IT
EXACTLY THAT
YOU WISH TO
BUY TODAY?
LONGEVITY?



BLISS?



LOVE?



NO...NONE
OF THESE
THINGS.

WHAT
THEN?

I WANT
POWER.

POWER?
BUT YOU HAVE
SO MUCH
ALREADY.



I NEED
MORE.

I WANT TO BE
ABLE TO MOVE WORLDS
AND SHAKE THEM TO THEIR
FOUNDATIONS. I WANT ENOUGH
POWER IN MY HANDS TO TEAR
PLANETS FROM THE HEAVENS
AND PLACE THEM IN A
NEW SKY.



OH. I
SEE.

YOU'LL BE
WANTING THE
THRONE
THEN.

FAIR
ENOUGH.
THIS WAY.

EARTH-2319.
[UNDER OBSERVATION.]

THE SIDERA MARIS ARE
THE FORERUNNERS OF
THE MAPMAKERS.

BRIDGE-BUILDING
AUTOMATONS WHO USE
INCURSIONS TO MARK
NEW TERRITORY FOR
THEIR MASTERS.

THESE SOLDIER SURVEYORS
WERE CREATED TO MARK
TERRITORY...NOT FOR
LONGEVITY. THEY ARE
COMBAT FODDER, MEANT
ONLY TO ENDURE LONG
ENOUGH TO CALL
THEIR MASTERS.

GRIST
FOR THE
MULTIVERSAL
MILL.

INCURSION
ACHIEVED, BUT
RESISTANCE THREATENS
MISSION
SUCCESS.

MAPPING
WORLD...
AHEAD OF
SCHEDULE.

FWASSSHH!

NEW
WORLDS.

NEVER
ENOUGH
WORLDS.

INCURSION
POINT
ANALYSIS?

THREAT LEVEL:
ASSESSING...

POSTHUMAN
DENSITY:
ELEVATED.

"CATALOGING..."

THREAT
LEVEL:
OMEGA.

ADAPTING...
GENETIC
MARKERS
DEFINED.



LAUNCHING
GENE SPECIFIC
NEUTRALIZER.

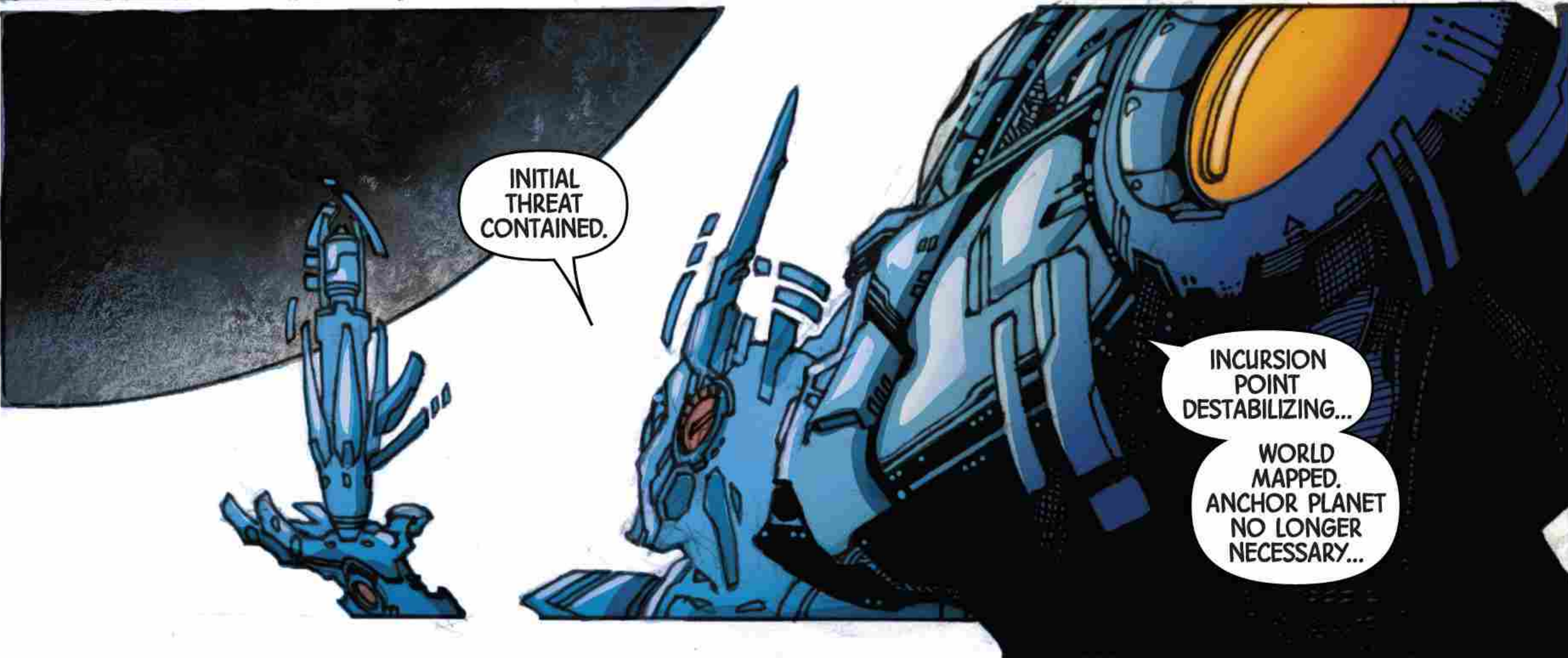


"RE-CODING
MESSENGER RNA
AS ATEMPORAL."

Nooooo...



MY
GOD!



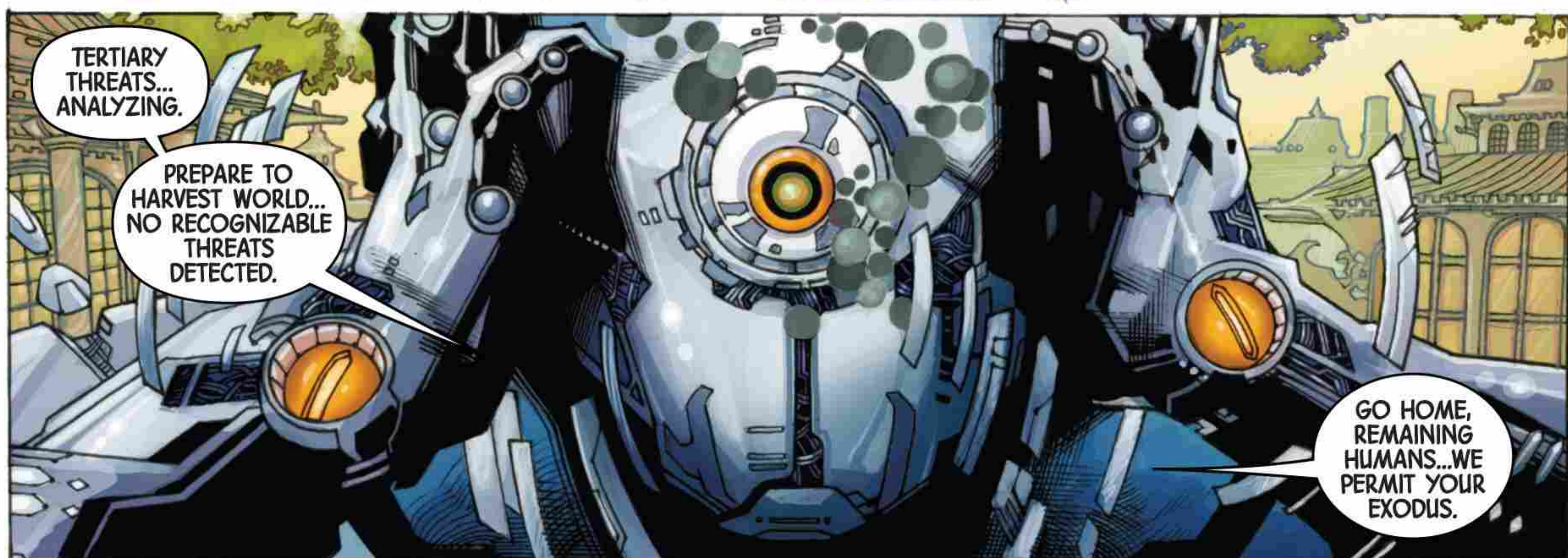
INITIAL
THREAT
CONTAINED.

INCURSION
POINT
DESTABILIZING...

WORLD
MAPPED.
ANCHOR PLANET
NO LONGER
NECESSARY...



TERMINATING
WORLD.



TERTIARY
THREATS...
ANALYZING.

PREPARE TO
HARVEST WORLD...
NO RECOGNIZABLE
THREATS
DETECTED.

GO HOME,
REMAINING
HUMANS...WE
PERMIT YOUR
EXODUS.



YOU
PERMIT
US...?

ARE WE
ON BENDED
KNEE? ARE WE
BEATEN?

NO!

QUICKLY!
YOU ALL SAW
WHAT THEY
ARE CAPABLE
OF!

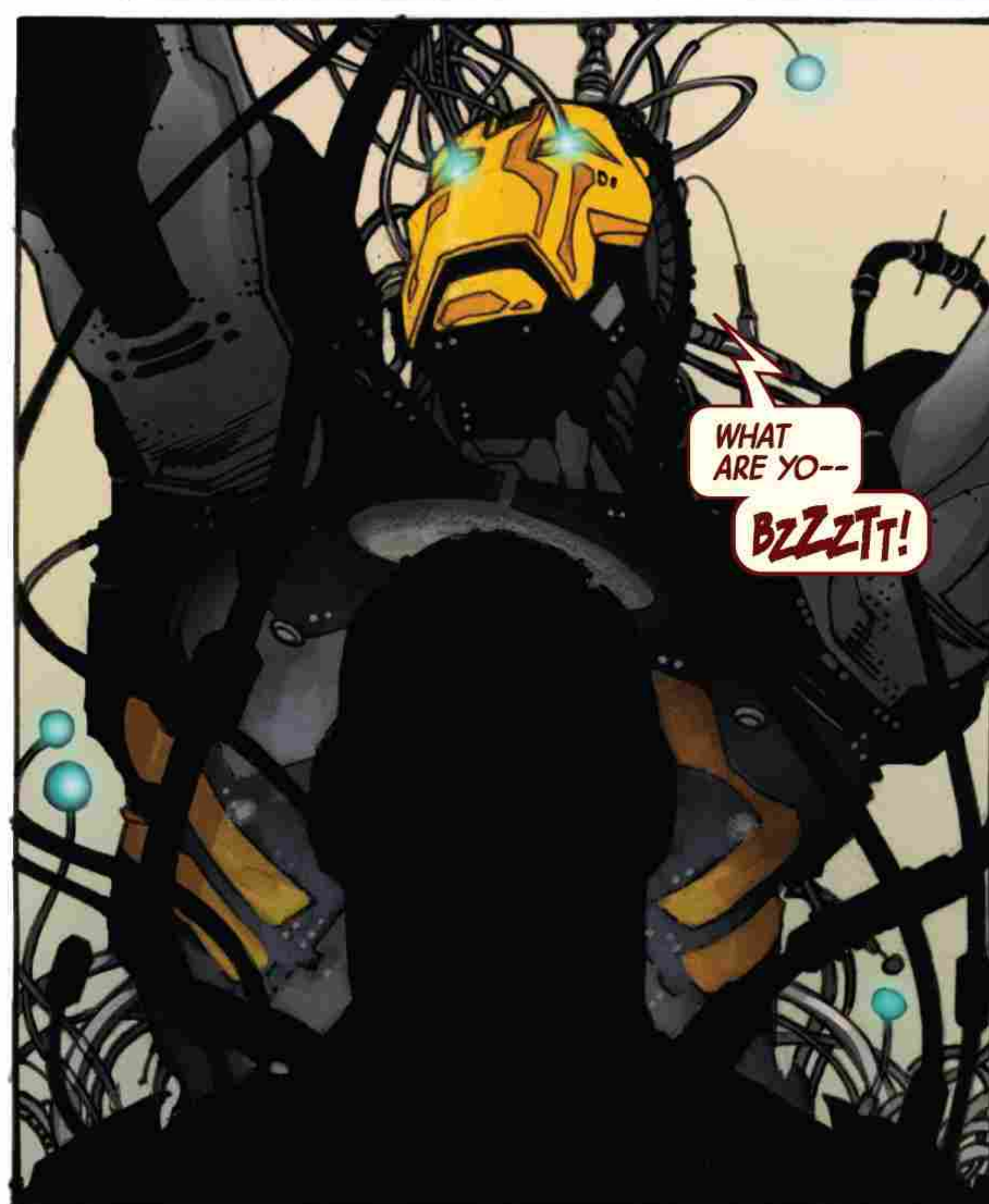
DON'T
HOLD
BACK!

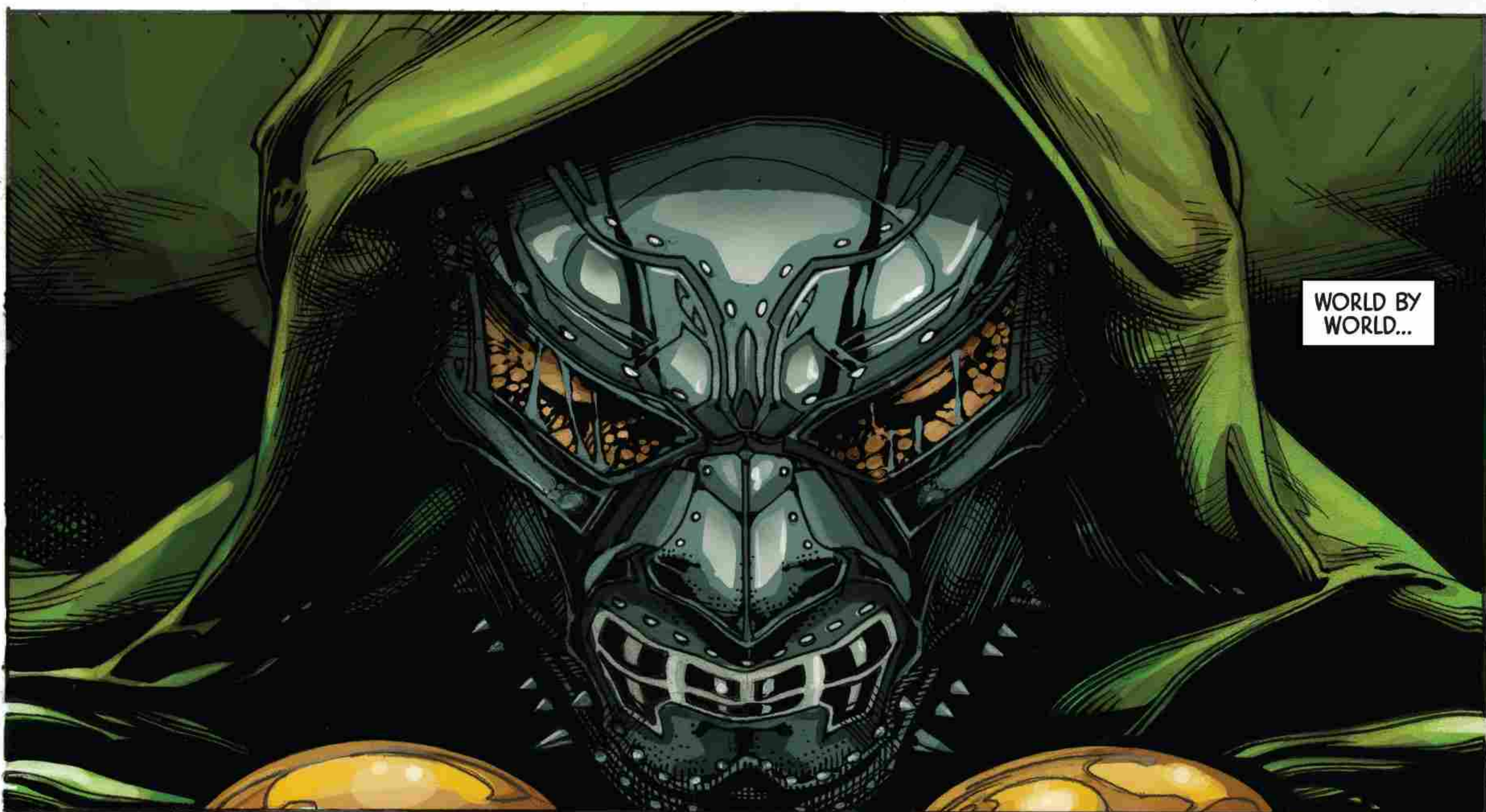
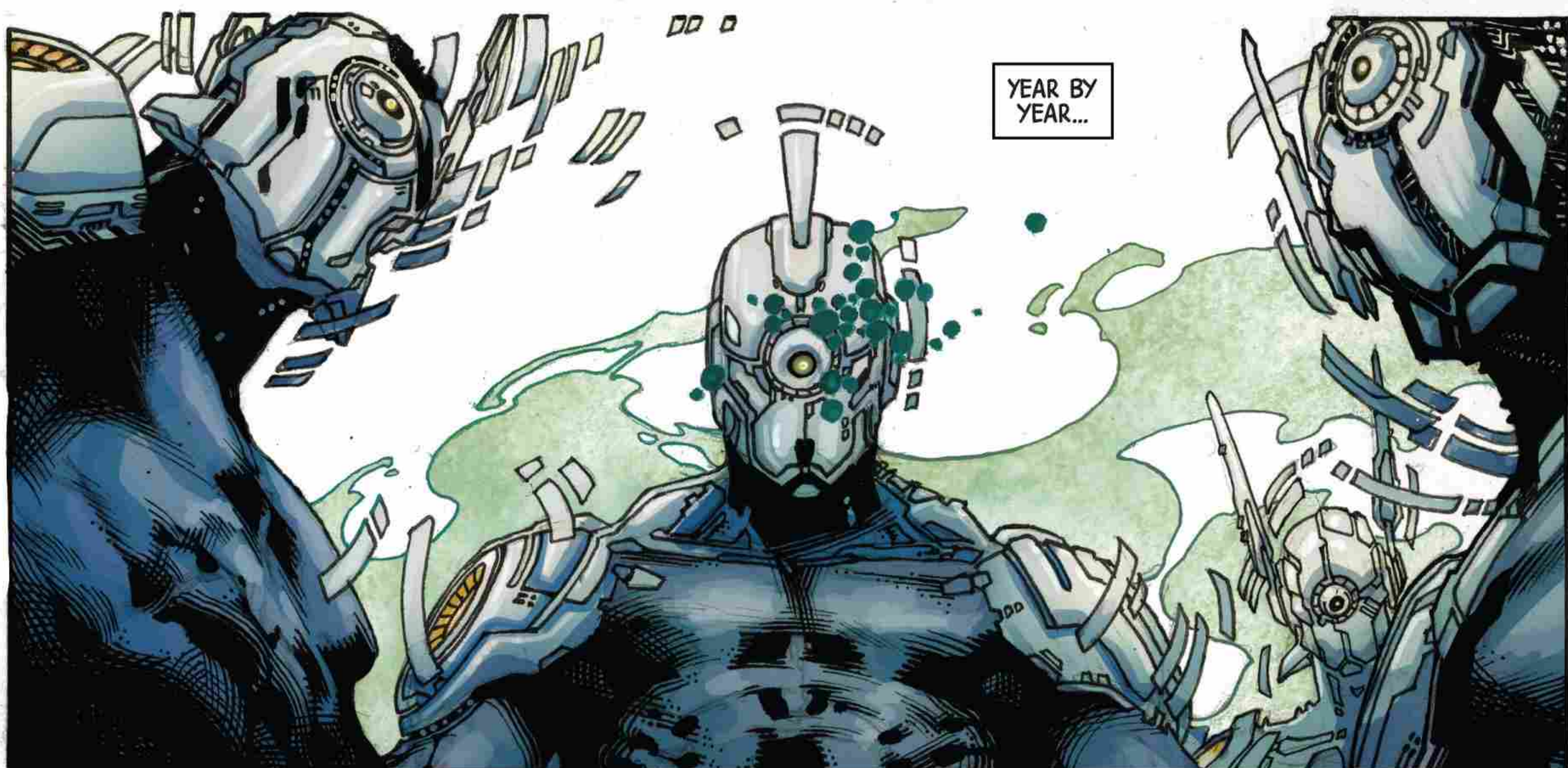


IS IT
PRIMAL INSTINCT?
THIS VIOLENT
REACTION TO
DEATH?

IT TAKES
WEEKS FOR US TO
FULLY HARVEST A WORLD.
YOU COULD HAVE *THAT*
INSTEAD OF THIS...
NOTHING.

WORLD
AFTER WORLD
AFTER WORLD...THIS
IS WHAT YOU
BIONISMS
CHOOSE.





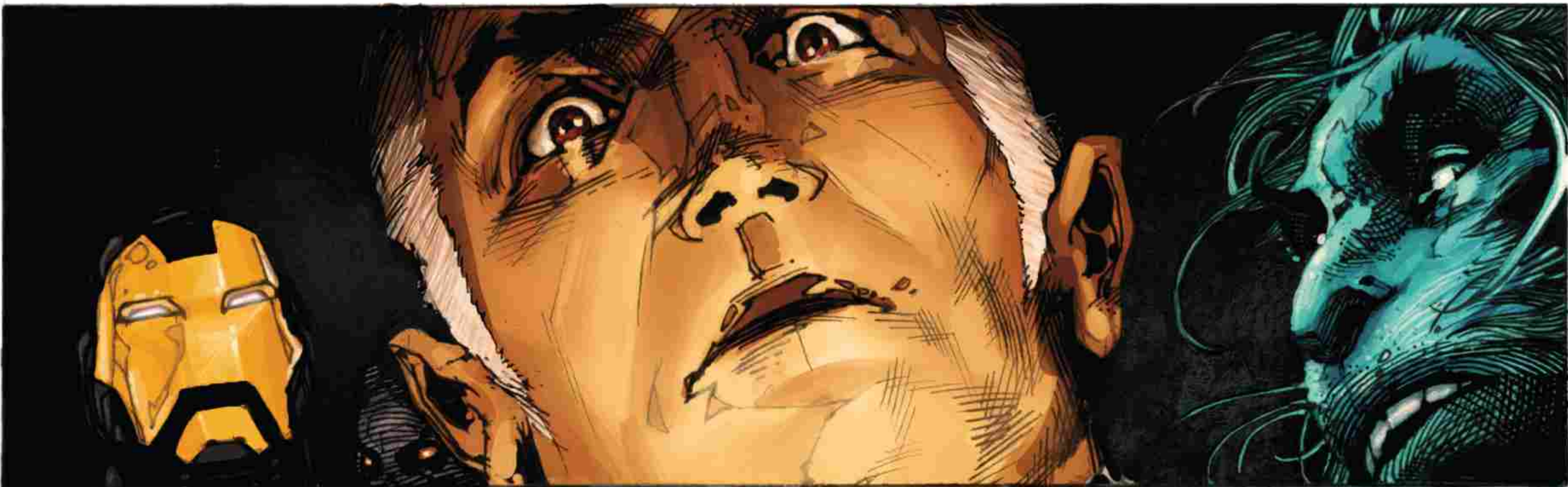
THE IDEA OF WHO YOU
ARE, AND WHAT YOU
STOOD FOR, WILL CRUMBLE
AND DECAY BEFORE YOUR
VERY EYES.



LOOK IN
THE MIRROR
LONG ENOUGH...

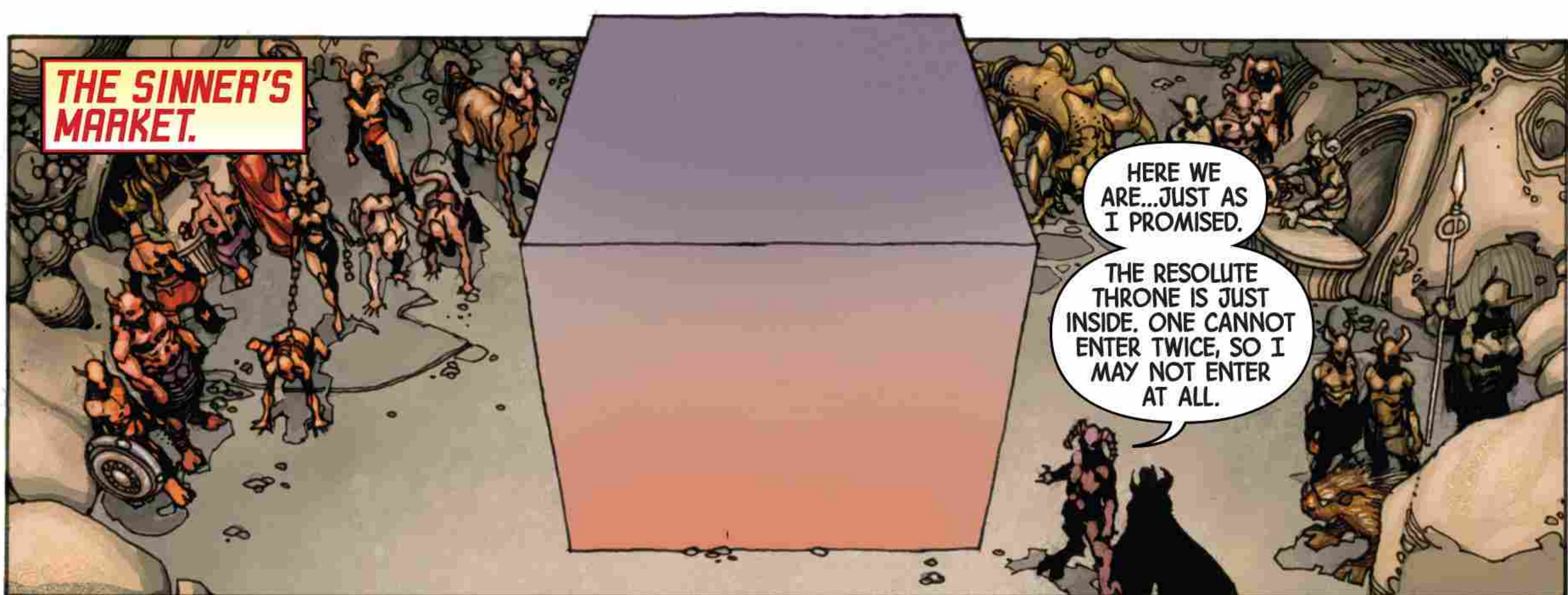


AND ONE DAY YOU
WON'T RECOGNIZE
THE MAN LOOKING
BACK AT YOU.



EVERYTHING
DIES.







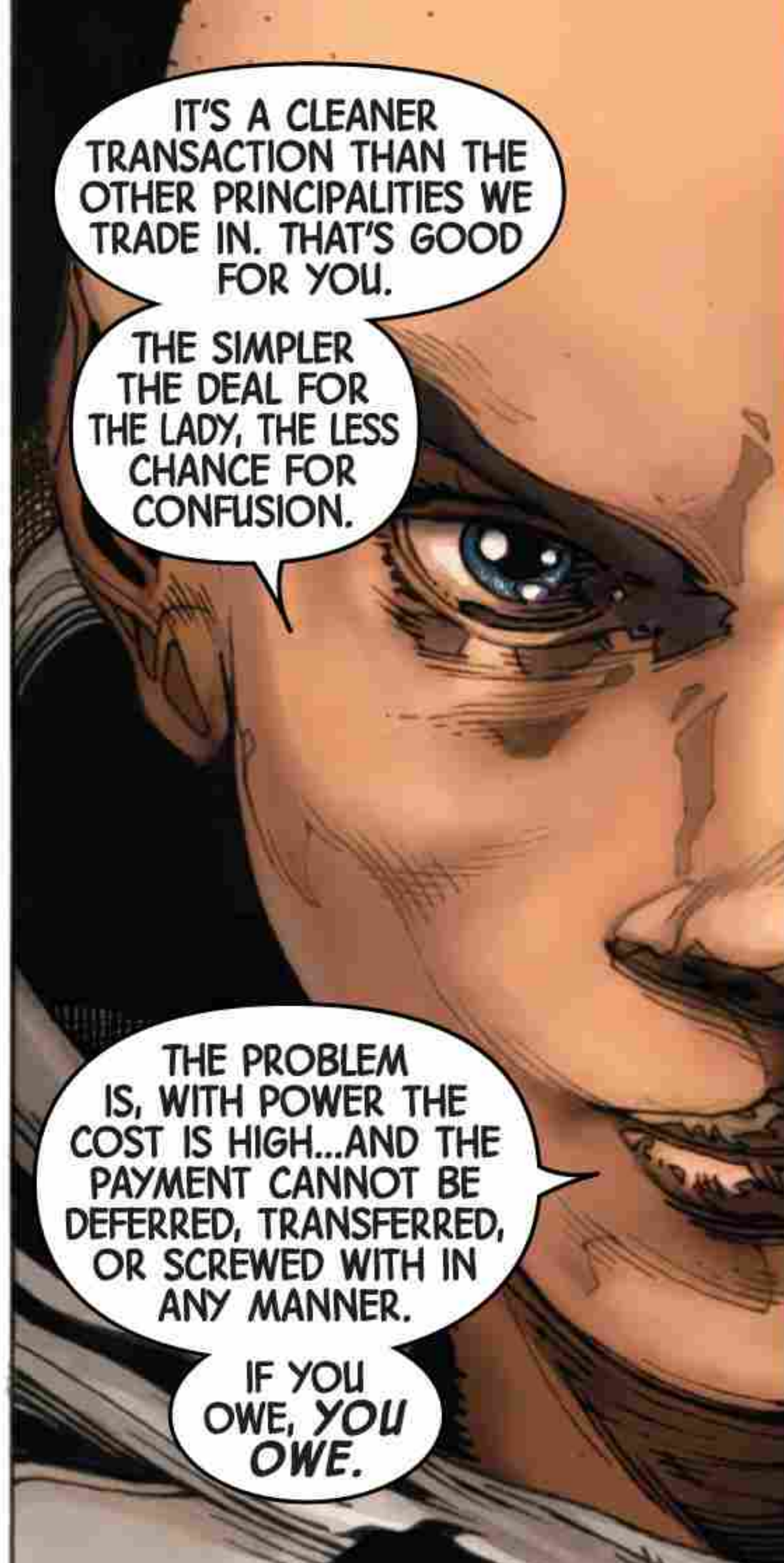
HOW MANY OTHERS WERE THERE?

OH, JUST THE THREE... BUT YOU'RE STILL BREATHING, YOU SEE?

SO... YOU'RE WINNING BY DEFAULT.

YOU'VE COME FOR POWER, YES?

I HAVE.



IT'S A CLEANER TRANSACTION THAN THE OTHER PRINCIPALITIES WE TRADE IN. THAT'S GOOD FOR YOU.

THE SIMPLER THE DEAL FOR THE LADY, THE LESS CHANCE FOR CONFUSION.

THE PROBLEM IS, WITH POWER THE COST IS HIGH...AND THE PAYMENT CANNOT BE DEFERRED, TRANSFERRED, OR SCREWED WITH IN ANY MANNER.

IF YOU OWE, YOU OWE.



HOW MUCH?

THAT DEPENDS ON THE PROPORTIONS...

WE DEAL IN DEGREES OF GODHOOD. MAN IS WHOLE AND IN FULL POSSESSION OF HIS SOUL...THIS IS HER PRICE. WE BARTER BY FIFTHS...AS THIS IS THE NUMBER OF MAN.

FOR THE SLOW AND UNLEARNED: IF YOU WANT TO HAVE TWENTY PERCENT OF THE POWER OF A GOD, IT WILL COST YOU ONE-FIFTH OF YOUR SOUL.

SO ARE YOU SELLING YOUR SOUL, STEPHEN?



I AM.



HOW MUCH?

HOW MUCH
OF YOUR SOUL
DO YOU SELL
THIS DAY?

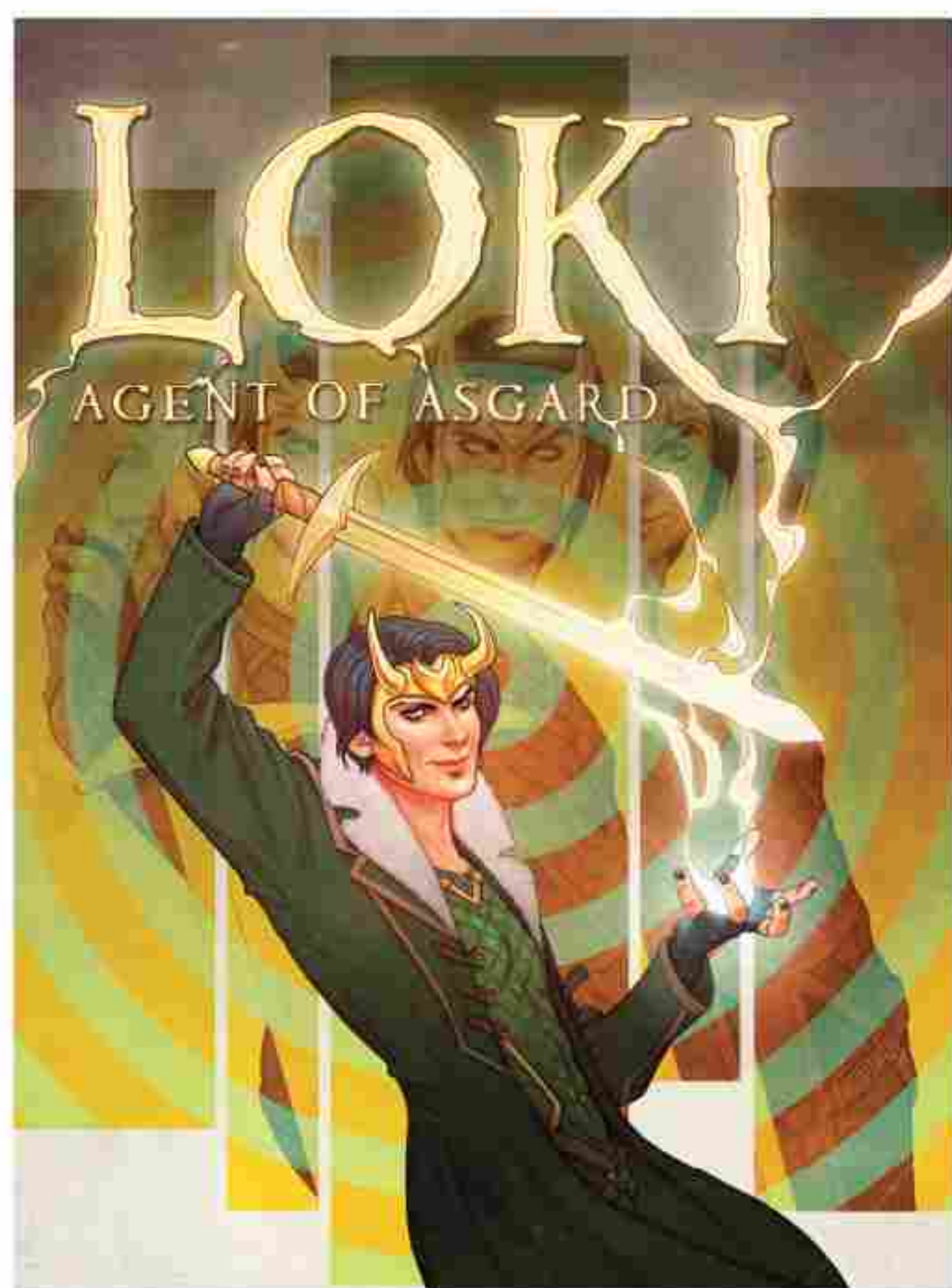


ALL OF
IT.

THE ASSEMBLY!

YOUR ONE-STOP NEWS SOURCE FOR ALL THINGS AVENGERS!

He walked away with the Avengers film! And now, the silver-tongued prince of lies is starring in his own All-New Marvel Now! series: **LOKI: AGENT OF ASGARD!** Written by **MIGHTY AVENGERS'** own Al Ewing and illustrated by Lee Garbett, the God of Mischief has a new mission, a new weapon, and a new outlook on life. But still, some things never change! And don't be surprised if you spot a few of Earth's Mightiest guest-stars in the pages of the first issue! It's Loki, the lord of larceny, just the way you like him best! (Hey, would we lie to you?)



It's changing-of-the-guard time here at Avengers headquarters! First, Lauren Sankovitch, who distinguished herself as the editorial top kick of such titles as **THOR: GOD OF THUNDER**, **YOUNG AVENGERS**, **JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY** and **AVENGERS ASSEMBLE** has left our hallowed halls to seek fame and fortune in far-off Los Angeles! Look for El Sank to be transitioning into the world of television -- and not merely watching it! Stepping into her sensible shoes is Marvel newcomer Wil Moss, who made his bones across town working on such series as **THE FLASH**, **GREEN ARROW** and **SUICIDE SQUAD**, and who'll be bringing the same magic to the new **SECRET AVENGERS** and **AVENGERS WORLD**, among other assignments! So consider your scorecards updated!

And now, it's time for your favorite and ours: the Letter of the Month:

Dearest comics-makin' folks,

This is a long letter, and I apologize in advance for that, but I promise it's full of good happy words.

I've been reading comics in some form or another since I was able to read anything. My dad, having mostly moved towards "indie" comics by the time I came around, didn't have any super hero books for me to read, but he'd always tell me about the fun and freaky adventures he remembered from growing up on the *Fantastic Four* and the *Mighty Thor*. His wife at the time worked at the American Cancer Society, and one day she came home with an anti-smoking comic they had recently reprinted, which I dutifully read over and over and over.

Yes, my first Marvel comic was *Spider-Man*, *Storm*, and *Power Man Battle Smokescreen*. Let it be a testament to the impact this book had on me that I have literally never touched a cigarette in my life.

Ever since then, I've been adding to my Marvel collection at an increasing rate. From odd issues

picked up at antique stores, to my first month-by-month book in the *FANTASTIC FOUR* run by Mark Waid and the much-missed Mike Wieringo, to today, where I work at what's widely considered one of the best comic shops in the country. Even with the incredible explosion of output from other publishers, Marvel books still make up a solid half of what I take home every week.

Recently, you announced a slew of new titles, several of them starring or prominently featuring female characters. As a woman, I was obviously thrilled at the news, especially at the preview covers that looked blissfully not like the eye-roll-worthy pinups I've come to expect from your competition.

These past couple of years have also seen characters from other oft-neglected groups (and combinations thereof) either debut or come back into the spotlight after lengthy absences. *YOUNG AVENGERS* is one of the few pieces of "teen media" that actually feels like the teens I know. The strong characterization in *MIGHTY AVENGERS* has shot Al Ewing to the top of my "read everything he does" list. And I swear to god if you guys are canceling the *Ultimate* line like everyone thinks you are you better get Miles Morales and whatever remains of his supporting cast out of there because that boy is a treasure.

Now, there are spoil-sports out there who like to mock these kinds of books. Spoil-sports who say that these titles are "too niche", that there aren't enough women/queer/POC readers to support them. (Because what straight white man would bother reading about characters outside his immediate experience, amirite dudes?)

Alas, it's a sad certainty that characters like the new Ms. Marvel will never sell as many units as, say, the main *SPIDER-MAN* title. But neither will *Moon Knight*, or *Wonder Man*, or *Taskmaster*. With so many readers crunched for cash or only interested in "important" books, any B-or-less-List character is starting with the odds stacked against them, whatever their skin color or pronoun preference.

(This isn't me saying "no" to a *Taskmaster* solo, by the way.)

So thank you, Marvel.

Thank you for filling your lineup not just with regurgitations of the same template, but with books that vary in tone and theme and style.

Thank you for having women who reflect many different kinds of womanhood, who can be smart or silly or straight-laced as the situation demands.

Thank you for having characters of all sorts of races and ethnicities, and of multiple races and ethnicities, who have the full respect of their peers.

Thank you for having gay, lesbian, and bi characters who aren't just jokes or fanservice fodder but real people with hopes and fears and complex relationships.

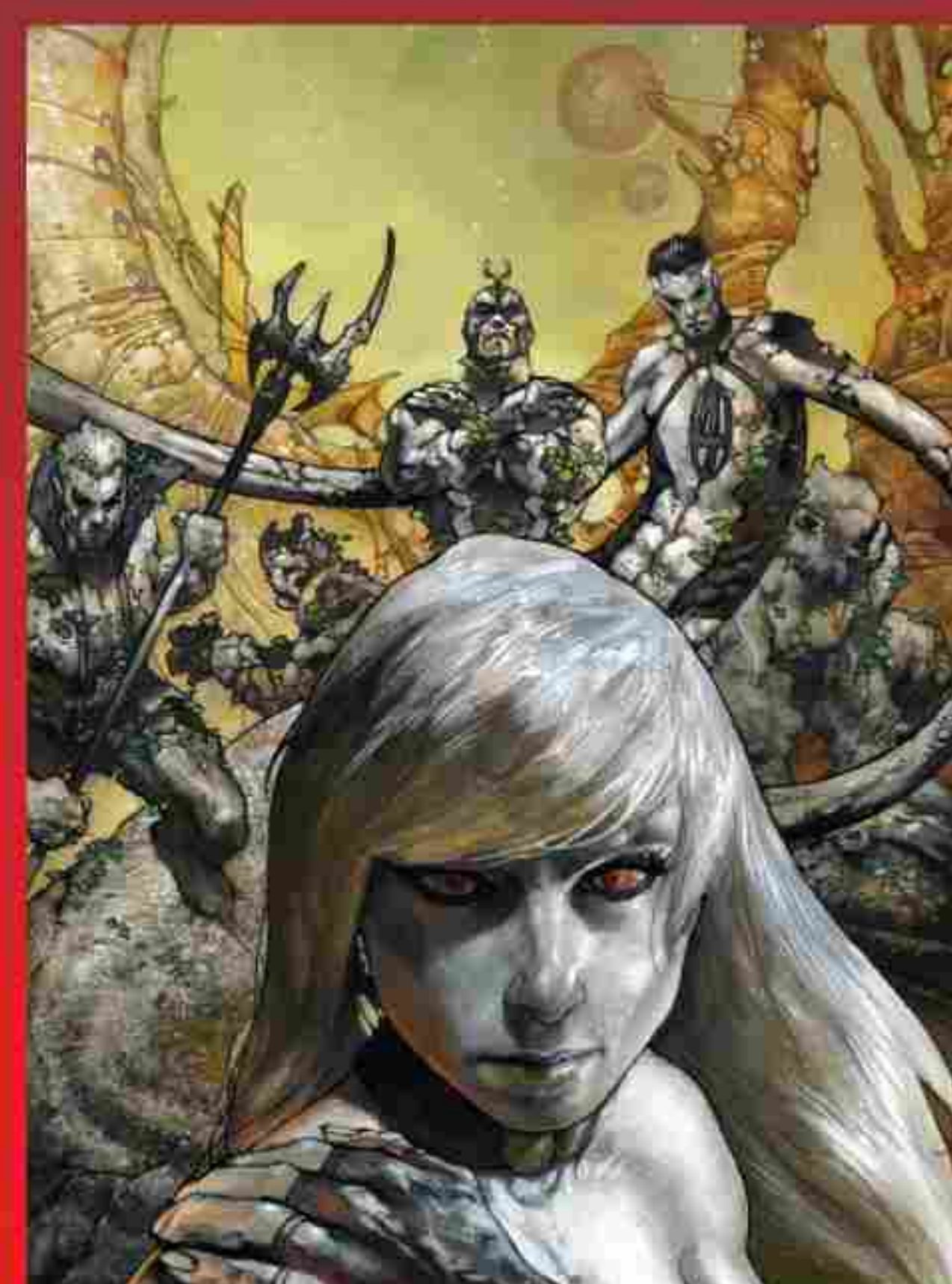
Thank you for having disabled characters who play an important role in your stories, both as members of a hero's supporting cast and as heroes in their own right.

Thank you for not having much in the way of trans representation yet, but creating the kind of environment where I truly can see it happening, and eagerly await the day that it does.

Thank you for living up to the idea that not just any person, but any kind of person, can be a hero.

Your Fan Forever,
Angelica Brenner

NEXT ISSUE:



STONE COLD!

AVENGERS TITLES ON SALE

AVENGERS #26

THE CRY IS ADAPT OR DIE AS THE ALL-NEW AVENGERS TAKE THE FIGHT TO A.I.M.!

AVENGERS A.I. #9

GUEST-STARRING THE UNCANNY AVENGERS, AS OUR HEROES INVADGE THE DIAMOND!

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE #24

IRON MAN AND SPIDER-GIRL JOIN FORCES TO RESCUE A NEW INHUMAN!

AVENGERS WORLD #3

SHANG-CHI IN A BRUTAL ONE-ON-ONE CONFRONTATION WITH THE GORGON!

MIGHTY AVENGERS #6

THE FALCON ON THE HUNT! LUKE AND ADAM IN EACH OTHER'S FACES!

MIGHTY AVENGERS #7

THE WHITE TIGER STALKS THE MAN WHO KILLED HER BROTHER!

NEW AVENGERS #15

MEET THE MAPMAKERS, CARTOGRAPHERS OF THE APOCALYPSE!

SECRET AVENGERS #15

AN UNEXPECTED DEATH BEGINS THE FINAL CURTAIN FOR THE CLANDESTINE TEAM!

SECRET AVENGERS #16

FINAL ISSUE! WHO WILL LIVE AND WHO WILL DIE?

UNCANNY AVENGERS #17

EVERY AVENGER ON EARTH JOINS FORCES TO PREVENT THE END OF THE WORLD!

A + X #17

IRON MAN AND BROO, PLUS THE CAPTAIN AMERICA AND CYCLOPS EPIC CONTINUES!

ALSO ON SALE!

MARVEL UNIVERSE
AVENGERS ASSEMBLE #6

